NRCS

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MAINE BULLETIN NO. ME450-3-6

SUBJECT: TCH – Section V of the eFOTG

Purpose: To transmit items that have been added to Section V of the eFOTG

Expiration Date. August, 2003

Under Section V – Conservation Effects – B. Case Studies - there has been a new case study added named, "Slotted Dewatering Fence in Corner of Pit".

Any questions or concerns, please contact Chris Jones, State Resource Conservationist.

/s/ Russell A. Collett

RUSSELL A. COLLETT
State Conservationist

DIST: F,S

ELECTRONIC FIELD OFFICE TECHNICAL GUIDE (eFOTG)
INFORMATION SHEET

The Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) is the first phase of the SmarTech initiative sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Science and Technology Consortium. It is a Web-based application that provides States (and equivalent) with a framework to establish an official, certified, electronic FOTG for field staff and, in the near future, third-party vendors. It includes linkage to a Technology Web site on an intranet for all NRCS employees to be called "my.NRCS". Phase I also provides for Content Manager Accounts restricted to individuals with logins authorized by the State Technical Guide Committees (STGCs). The second phase of SmarTech scheduled for deployment in November will involve greater customization of eFOTG, new interactive conservation tools, and a resource data viewer.

Pilot testing a eFOTG was conducted May 9 through 23, 2002. Ten States participated: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Missouri, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Texas. During the pilot, approximately 40 STGC members used the application to enter technical information as Content Manager onto a live production server in the NRCS Web farm. While offering some suggestions for improvement, all agreed that the eFOTG Content Manager tool was easy to use and was an efficient method for updating the FOTG. Their feedback was very positive regarding the ease of navigating through the sections and downloading information. Both Content Managers and field office employees believed the learning curve for gaining proficiency in the use of eFOTG was short and not much training was required.

A few points for your information:

- Initially all NRCS employees will have access to the State (and equivalent) eFOTG through a "my.NRCS" Web site based on their logins. Later during Phase I there will be access for certified third-party vendors and the general public. A State's (and equivalent) eFOTG will contain State Conservation Practice Standards, soils information, and other technical references that have been approved by the STGC. If the information is approved for use in a specific area, e.g., Major Land Resource Area(s) or county(s) rather than statewide, it should be categorized as such in the appropriate section of the eFOTG.

- Links to the National Handbook of Conservation Practices, as well as to other national technical references such as the National Planning Procedures Handbook, will be provided on the "my.NRCS" Technology page, which is separate from the State (and equivalent) eFOTG.

- Phase II implementation, November, 2002, will provide NRCS field staff and third party vendors the means to create FOTG "Thunderbooks" of frequently used material, which can be downloaded to laptops and hand-held computing devices. Deliverables include:

- "my.NRCS" customizable eFOTG pages
- SmarTech intelligent search capability
- Thunderbook download
- Resource Data Viewer